

Greener Hopkinton
Minutes, October 16, 2008 meeting.

The meeting opened at 6:30 pm, at the Hopkinton Town Library's Community Room.

The following committee members were present at the meeting: Janet Ward, Susan Covert, Diane Hastings, Mary Leadbeater, Lori Aubertin, Carol Cleary, Bethann McCarthy.

The minutes of September 14, 2008 were sent to the committee by email. Motion made by Lori Aubertin, seconded by Susan Covert, to approve the minutes. All in attendance voted affirmatively.

The first issue of the E-newsletter, which went out approximately two weeks before this meeting, was discussed. Several people commented on the high quality of the e-newsletter. Diane said that we may want to consider doing more frequent postings than had originally been planned (approximately every two months was previously discussed). Currently the Town pays an annual fee that includes mailings for up to 500 addresses. There is an unlimited number of mailings associated with this fee. We currently are mailing to about 160 people. We need to find out more about how the Town website works. Risa, Bethann and Diane should meet with Chris Lawless. Bethann said he'd email Chris to get more information, or set up a meeting time.

Local Flavor Column - Some ideas were discussed for this column: "recycling" glass used for road base, Noah Booth's Eagle Scout project on recycling bins for Town events, Styrofoam trays no longer being used at high school, winter composting, and the school energy audit. Lori Aubertin said that she would like to have her class work on some reports for the e-newsletter. One of her ideas was for an article on the end of the Styrofoam trays.

Progress on the Greener Hopkinton Logo and Motto were discussed. Byron Carr had submitted an idea for a logo which was passed around the room at the last meeting. Several people liked the Logo, but we thought that we would like to see some other ideas, especially as Jay Spahr had been asked to present designs to us in the past. Jay is still very interested in being involved in this, according to Janet Ward. Janet will call Jay and ask her to present us with 2 or 3 ideas.

We also discussed the idea of a motto. Some that were discussed: "Becoming part of the solution", Greener, Better Every Day". The committee thought that perhaps we should ask people to submit ideas, and vote on it. Janet suggested we ask other GH committee members for ideas and then vote on it.

Canvas Bag Update: Bethann dropped off an additional 15 bags at Dimond Hill. We discussed a marketing drive for the holidays. According to Mary Leadbeater, last year we didn't have any luck in getting permission to sell at the local holiday fairs. We will set up a booth at the high school on election day. Carol will send out an email asking people to volunteer for certain time slots. First she will talk to Sue Strickford to make sure this is okay. We also discussed putting an article in the e-newsletter, which would have a link to Carol Cleary's email address. Carol also said she would send out order forms to the schools to go home with the children.

Energy Survey Results – Janet explained the outcome of the meeting with the Town Library. Janet, Bethann, Brian Bickford and Jack Ruderman met with the Library staff, trustees and representatives from the Jordan Institute to take the next step at the library and have an energy audit completed. The trustees are anxious to find out what can be done to cut down on the consumption of oil for heating, and the Jordan Institute representatives seemed confident that some inexpensive changes could be made that would have a fairly significant impact. The Library

has some funds that will cover the cost of this, and will likely hire the Jordan Institute for this study.

SMART Program. We briefly discussed the presentation being given by the Recycling Committee to promote the SMART program on Wednesday, October 16. Mary reported that there are still a lot of different discussion going on in Town, and the Town has not chosen which path to take to improve recycling.

Eco-Fair Update. Janet reported that last year we had 140 people attend, and this year there were perhaps about 100 people. The committee discussed that maybe the Eco-Fair is not the best use of the Team's resources, and it might be better to direct our energies to other programs to educate the Town about energy efficiency and other green issues.

Speaker Series at the Library.

The committee agreed that a speaker series might be a very effective program to pursue in cooperation with the Library. Janet Ward said that the library staff informed her they are eager to host these events. Janet will ask Jim and Jack for some ideas for speakers. Some of the topics we discussed: Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA), geothermal, NHSEA. We felt it was important that the speakers be unbiased, and that non-profits and NGOs are probably the way to go to this end.

Community Garden Initiative. The Committee needs to ask some other people to volunteer for this, because so many of us are already focused on big projects, and we really need to get people who are committed and knowledgeable of gardening and town properties. Janet and Bethann are going to speak to a few people to see if they would like to be on a garden site search committee.

Other Business. Susan Covert and Bethann discussed the possibility of getting an article in for Town meeting, requiring commercial buildings to build "green". Bethann said that it is probably too late to get going on this, as the articles have to be finalized by December (she thought), and this kind of article would take a while to get put together and reviewed by the Planning Board. Bethann will email Sue some links from the Office of Energy and Planning so she could look up green buildings and about ordinances banning outside wood burners.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 20th, at the library.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.